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Seeds of Honey Plants

Offered by

JAN 31 1951

PELLETT GARDENS

U. S. Department of Agriculture

ATLANTIC, IOWA

1951

Featuring

*Unusual New Plants*

Promising New Forage Crops  
Ornamentals for Flower Gardens  
and Borders  
Honey Plants for Naturalizing



*Flowers of Birdfoot Trefoil with visitor.*

—Photo by Richard Trump

*A Succession of Honey Plants Are  
Essential to Maintaining Strong Colonies*



# IMPORTANCE OF HONEY PLANTS

Honey plants are the first essential to bee-keeping. For bees to store surplus honey there must be an abundance of nectar from one or more sources at one or several periods during the season. In order for bees to prosper, there must also be the so-called minor sources early and late and between the major flows, to keep the bees in shape and to build them up to make the most of the major honey flows.

Since honeybees, for their pollination services, are becoming recognized as very essential to our agriculture and national well-being, likewise honey plants which will furnish either minor or major sources must be looked upon as of major importance in the scheme of things. It is of a law of nature that the greater the succession of nectar plants present throughout the season, the more bees there will be to perform the essential service of pollination of the fruits and flowers, gardens and fields of your neighborhood.

## WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU

Some twelve years ago we began gathering a little seed of several promising honey plants and put up a few packets of seed in order to have it available for those who might want it. We were induced to take on this little sideline since we are in close contact with my father, Frank C. Pellett, and his work in the American Bee Journal Honey Plant Test Gardens. Once we started on this little venture there seemed to be no stopping place; the demand was increasing for the seeds we offered and we kept adding other items of promising nectar plants to the list. This very modest beginning proved to be the start of a business which we later came to look upon as no longer a sideline. We immensely enjoyed this work and found it an interesting project in bringing together worthwhile plants which attract the bees freely and in extending their use to others. Our listings came to include plants of proven agricultural value and others of sufficient promise to be in demand for trial under widely varied climatic conditions; some novelties and attractive garden flowers which attract the bees in large numbers; some desirable plants to naturalize on unused land for the purpose of providing additional bee pasture.

Since honey plants are as yet a largely unexplored field, the offering of seed in trial amounts, so that you may learn by trial and error which are of most value for your locality and to suit your purpose, remains important to us.

To make available a desirable selection of nectar plants and to do the best we can in describing them to you, is our intention in issuing this catalogue.

Hoping to be of greater service to you,

MELVIN A. PELLETT.



**BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL****(*Lotus corniculatus*)**

Birdsfoot Trefoil is a fine stem, long lived legume forage crop which is fast gaining favor in American agriculture. It is especially valuable for use in permanent pastures and is often sown in combination with Kentucky Bluegrass. It seems adapted to a wide variety of soil conditions and succeeds well on some soils which are so low in fertility that alfalfa and clover do poorly. It is drowth resistant once it is well established. This is a crop to give a first consideration for hill land you wish to seed permanently. Indications are that it is adaptable to most of the northern half of the United States. It makes good hay.

In England it is regarded as a valuable bee plant. From Vermont and Minnesota come reports of good crops of very fine quality honey from it. While it is too soon to judge in full the extent of Birdsfoot Trefoil as a honey plant in this country, reports indicate that it is generally of value to the bees and we may expect it to be a good source of nectar at least for some localities. It blooms here, beginning in June and continuing intermittently into September.



*Showing the spreading growth of Birdsfoot Trefoil*

For field culture, seed carefully on a firm, well prepared seedbed; three to five pounds per acre with Kentucky Bluegrass; or a smaller amount may be included with a permanent pasture mixture. Early spring seeding is most often practiced.

Ask us for reprint, "Birdsfoot Trefoil—The Coming Legume."

There are two varieties of Birdsfoot Trefoil, the Broadleaf and the Narrowleaf. The Broadleaf variety is superior under most conditions. There are several strains of Broadleaf which may vary in hardiness and productivity. We consider it well worth the small difference it may cost to start with seed of well known



origin so we handle the Northeastern grown, domestic seed exclusively. We have a small field of it which was planted in 1938 and is still a good stand.

Northeastern U. S. grown seed of Broadleaf variety. Per packet, 15c; pound, with can of inoculant, \$2.50; 5 pounds, with can of inoculant, \$11.25; postpaid. Write us for prices on larger quantity, or regarding availability of certified seed.

### **BIG TREFOIL**

**(*Lotus major*)**

Big Trefoil is receiving wide acceptance in some of our northwest coastal areas where it succeeds both on lowlands and on poorer hill land where the soils remain relatively moist. It is not growth resistant as is the Birdsfoot Trefoil, but will grow on wet land and will withstand periods of flooding. It is reported as very acid tolerant and succeeding on soils high in acidity. It does not prove hardy for us here in Iowa and is better adapted to warmer climates.

Big Trefoil would seem to hold much promise for situations in the south and middle-south where a legume is needed to meet the above requirements. It is reported long lived and spreads and thickens up by underground rhizomes. It is used for both pasture and hay. Try it, it may be just the legume you are looking for.

Big Trefoil furnishes a great abundance of bloom. Honey bees visit the flowers freely and it is apparently a good honey plant.

The seed, which is very small, should be sown almost on top of a very well prepared and firmed seedbed. The seed should be inoculated with a special culture which is absolutely necessary for its success.

Seed,  $\frac{1}{4}$  pound with can of inoculant, \$1.00; per pound, including inoculant, \$2.25, postpaid.

### **WAGNER FLAT PEA**

**(*Lathyrus silvestris wagneri*)**

For those who will give it the necessary attention to get it established, Wagner Pea apparently offers a long time heavy yield of forage. Once established, it is reported to succeed on poor soil, stand much dry weather and to last for a lifetime. In Washington State some old stands are reported which are 40 or more years old. We have reports of yields of three and four tons of dry hay per acre from a single cutting. The dry hay has been analyzed as containing 21 to 30 per cent protein, which is very high.

Wagner Pea is a deep rooting perennial which starts slowly and requires two to three years to become fully established. On cultivated land it requires clean cultivation the first season. It is being used for forage in some sections on newly logged off land where it is adapted to hill planting between the stumps. Once well established it smothers out competing growth. Some classes of livestock, as sheep and rabbits, have been poisoned under certain conditions by eating freely of the immature foliage. This seems to suggest that it should not be used for sheep pasture. We have no knowledge of this plant ever being injurious to any other classes of livestock or of its ever being injurious



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We have the best stock of seed we have ever been able to secure of this unusual, heavy producing, long lived forage crop. Seed, per packet, 20c; per pound, \$2.00; 5 pounds, \$9.00; 10 pounds, \$17.50; postpaid. 25 pounds upwards at \$1.50 per pound, not prepaid.

It is best to inoculate the seed before planting, using sweet pea or vetch inoculant. A can of this we will include with each order for 1 pound or more of seed.

## **SAINFOIN** **(Onobrychis)**

Sainfoin is the main source of honey in some European countries where it is extensively grown as a forage crop. It is drowth resistant and will grow in some situations where clovers do poorly. As a honey plant it has few equals, since the bees visit the flowers freely from the time of the first opening until the last have faded. It is a pretty sight when in bloom. It blooms in May and June. Honey from it is of fine quality.

Seed, per packet, 15c. Write us regarding availability of somewhat larger quantity.



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Seed, per packet, 15c. Write us regarding availability of somewhat larger quantity.



**PELLETT CLOVER****(*Trifolium ambiguum*)**

This very unusual clover spreads rapidly from deep rhizomous roots and, unlike most clovers, increases



*Pellett Clover root system as dug from six feet of row one year after planting*

from year to year. The amount of root growth is almost amazing. It thrives wonderfully on our grounds. A well established plant measures strong roots three to four feet long, and a top spread of three feet. The rate of increase from rhizomes is very surprising. Rows planted  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart in April were growing together in places five months later and early the second season the clover completely filled the spaces between the rows, and the ground was heavily bound with roots. From all indications it is entirely winter hardy.

This clover leafs out very early in the spring. At first only basil leaves appear. In our plots these leaves are usually very large and the individual leafstalks are often more than a foot high. In late May the flowering stems appear which are three feet long at height of bloom and each stem has many flowering heads at different height.

The plant blooms in June and July and the bees visit the flowers freely. The corolla tubes are short so that the nectar is readily available to honey bees. It appears to be the equal of any as a honey plant. It usually sets seed as well as most clovers in our locality and can also be propagated by seed.



Reports indicate that this clover varies greatly in its behavior in different localities and does not do nearly so well in all situations as it does for us. However, its behavior here and some other places is such as to indicate it has great possibilities and to promote much enthusiasm for it. We believe it is a most interesting plant for your trial and one which may be very useful once some difficulties in its adaptation can be overcome. Animals like it.

Ask us for the reprint, "That New Clover Again."

Root divisions of this clover can be planted in either fall or spring. In the northern states, early spring planting is probably the best. In the south and middle south, fall and winter planting may be preferable.



*Pellett Clover in bloom*

We offer root divisions which will be well packed for shipping.

Seed is not available.

Root Divisions: 25 for \$2.00, 100 for \$5.00, 250 for \$10.00, 500 for \$18.00, postpaid. Per 1,000, \$30.00, not prepaid. Large quantity prices on request. Shipping season, late fall, winter and spring up to May 10. Please give preferred shipping date when ordering.

### **WHITE DUTCH CLOVER** (*Trifolium repens*)

White Dutch or pasture clover has long been the main dependence for a honey crop over a wide area of the Northeastern States. It is an important source of nectar in much of the Middlewest. The plant is easily naturalized along the roadsides, in pastures and waste places. Should be included in any mixture of grasses for pasture.

Seed, per packet, 15c; per pound, \$1.50; postpaid.

### **LADINO CLOVER**

Ladino is a giant white clover which makes two or three times the growth of ordinary white clover where it does well. It is proving very popular in many places as a pasture and hay plant. It is best adapted to regions having good moisture conditions and fertile soils. Honey from it is very similar to that produced from the common white clover.

The seed is very small. Two pounds per acre well



distributed on a well prepared seedbed should be sufficient.

CERTIFIED seed, packet, 15c; per pound, \$2.25; postpaid.

### STRAWBERRY CLOVER

(*Trifolium fragiferum*) is a new clover which is salt-tolerant and will grow on some such soils where other clovers will not grow. It will usually make its best growth on wet or moist soils and will survive periods of flooding. Its adaptation to such conditions make it very valuable for some wet and saline soils where other legumes cannot be grown. Good for pasture and soil building in some sections and should be tried elsewhere on wet lands.

Apparently a good honey plant.

Seed, per packet, 15c; ½ pound, \$1.00, postpaid.

### SWEET CLOVER

(*Melilotus*)

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NOTE: We offer sweet clovers and vetch for your convenience in securing trial quantities. If you want larger quantities you can probably secure them in your localities. If not, write us and we will suggest a source of supply.

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Sweet clover ranks among the best honey plants in this country. Climatically, it is adapted to practically all the United States and southern Canada. It will thrive on a wide range of soils and is extensively used as a forage crop.

### OHIO EVERGREEN SWEET CLOVER

This variety is of special interest to bee-keepers because it blooms over a long period and continues later in the season than most other biennial sweet clovers. It is reported to have furnished good bee-pasture for over three months and some observations of it in our gardens indicate likewise. Because of the long blooming period the seed does not all ripen at one time and is hard to harvest in quantity. This fairly recent development in a white blossom variety we think outstanding for bee-pasture.

Seed, per packet, 15c; pound, \$1.00; three pounds, \$2.50, postpaid.

### MADRID SWEET CLOVER

Madrid is a new outstanding variety of biennial yellow sweet clover. It is outstanding for early seedling vigor and high yields of forage. It appears to be well suited to the great plains and corn belt sections. It is a heavy seed producer, maturing slightly later than the common yellow.

Seed, packet, 15c; pound, 85c; three pounds, \$2.25; postpaid.

**HUBAM CLOVER** is the white annual sweet clover. Unlike the biennial sweet clovers, this one completes its life cycle all in one season. It is of use in farm rota-



tion where a quick soil builder is desired. It is one of the best plants for honey and can be depended upon for bloom the first season when planted early. Under favorable conditions it blooms over a long season and often means an additional honey flow after other clover blooms are past.

Seed, packet, 15c; two pounds, \$1.00; five pounds, \$2.25; postpaid.

### COMMON SWEET CLOVER

There are two common varieties of biennial sweet clover, the white blossom and the yellow blossom. This offer is of seed of the white and yellow blossom mixed.

Packet, 15c; two pounds, \$1.00; five pounds, \$2.25; postpaid.

### ERECTOR SWEET CLOVER

This is a very recent development in a yellow flowered sweet clover and appears to be a most promising variety. It is an early bloomer, began blooming here May 28 and continued swarming with bees to the end of June. It is a tall growing variety and makes a very leafy and vigorous growth.

Seed is very scarce. Per packet, 15c, postpaid.

### HAIRY VETCH

(*Vicia villosa*)

The Hairy Vetch, also known as Winter Vetch, is much used for green manure and cover crop, and for hay and pasture in some sections. It acts as a biennial when planted in the spring and as a winter annual when planted in the fall. An excellent source of fine quality honey in some localities. Long blooming period.

Seed, packet, 15c; two pounds, \$1.00; postpaid.

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## Trees and Shrubs

### VITEX

(*Incisa negundo*)

This long-lived shrub or small tree furnishes abundant bloom which the bees work freely and constantly over a long blooming period in late summer and fall. Attractive in both foliage and flower, it is unsurpassed as an ornamental shrub for latitude of central Missouri and southward where it reaches height of from eight to fifteen feet. In Iowa it often kills to the ground in winter, growing from the crown the following season. It is one of the very best shrubs to plant for nectar in the South and has value further north. We consider it very worth while here in our gardens. Though it often kills back in winter, it is winter hardy. It is a nice ornamental and a favorite of the honey bee.

The seed germinates slowly and requires favorable conditions. Plant in garden seedbed early in the spring. Water often to keep soil constantly moist during germination period which is usually two to four weeks.

Seed, packet, 20c; 2 ounces, \$1.00; postpaid.



**EVERFLOWERING LOCUST****(Robinia semperflorens)**

At last we have an everblooming tree. These trees have bloomed all summer long, at times a little and at times a lot, but all the time in bloom, beginning in May and continuing through the months of June and July and most of August. This is something unique since we know of no other tree which blooms over an extended period. It is rapid growing and will make a good sized tree in only a few years. This would be worthwhile to add to your planting if only for the novelty. But if you are acquainted with Black Locust you will know how well the bees work the flowers during the short blooming period in spring, and we expect this long blooming selection to be an addition to many a bee-yard. Makes a quick growing windbreak. We have some grown 10 to 12 feet tall in two years.

Ask us for the reprint "Everflowering Locust."

This is our first offering of the Everflowering Locust. We have a limited number of trees for delivery early spring 1951. These large, heavy trees usually bloom first season. You may order in advance for shipment late March or early April.



*Photo taken in July showing Everflowering Locust tree which began blooming late May*

Large trees (5 to 8 ft. size), each \$2.75; 3 for \$7.00; by express, not prepaid.

**Newly Grafted Little Trees of  
Everflowering Locust**

If you want to grow your own trees write us early for description and prices of this newly grafted material. We will make available as many as we can this winter (for shipment very early spring) in lots of 12 or more at a special price. On fertile soil and with good moisture conditions they should grow into trees



5 feet or more in one season. This is more economical than getting the larger trees, but recommended only if you will follow simple directions rigidly. Write for prices and particulars.

### **FALL BLOOMING ELM** **(*Ulmus parvifolia*)**

This asiatic species appears to well serve the purpose as an ornamental, small to medium size shade tree and may also provide an additional source of nectar. Our more common elms bloom in early spring and are attractive to the bees for pollen. This one is reported as yielding nectar freely in central Missouri and to be swarming with bees at a time (usually September) when there is little coming to the hive from other sources. It is an attractive, nicely shaped tree little known to this country.

One year, well rooted little trees, late March or early April shipment. Each \$1.00; three for \$2.50; postpaid.

### **LESPEDA BICOLOR**

This is a shrubby lespedeza which bee-keepers may well heed. It blooms freely in late summer, is very attractive to the bees and can be expected to be a good source of surplus honey where it can be popularized to become sufficiently plentiful. It is attractive in both foliage and flower and is a long lived perennial suitable for screen or hedge. The seed is a preferred food of quail and for this reason it is being used rather extensively in some sections to serve a dual purpose of erosion control and furnish cover for wildlife. It will not usually mature seed in Northern States but will provide a good fall source of nectar as far north as central Iowa and central New England. It is reported winter hardy at Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. We have a planting of *Lespedeza Bicolor* and *Cyrtobotra* which is more than ten years old. We like them both for their ornamental value and attractiveness to bees.

Fairly easy to grow from seed, the seed can be planted on prepared ground where it is wished to remain; for small plantings it is better to start the seed in garden row and transplant to permanent position the following spring. Plant the seed in the spring when moisture conditions are good any time after severe frosts are past.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid. Write for price of larger quantity.

### **LESPEDA CYRTOBOTRA**

*Lespedeza Cyrtobotra* is another shrubby species from Asia. It is perennial and requires about three years to reach full maturity. It begins blooming in the second season and is very attractive to the bees. This species apparently yields more nectar than any lespedeza that we have thus far been able to secure. It reaches a height of about six feet on our grounds. Fall bloomer.

Seed, per packet, 20, postpaid.

### **BITTERSWEET** **(*Celastrus scandens*)**

The orange and bright scarlet colored seed clusters of



the native American bittersweet are much sought in the fall for winter bouquets. This is also a good honey plant. Our observations and reports from elsewhere indicate that the bees generally work freely on bittersweet. This vine or climbing shrub is common to woodlands of some sections of north central United States. There is a good market in some cities for the berries of the American bittersweet. It appears good enough so we plan to plant some for the purpose of selling the decorative branches. Some wholesalers tell us that the material we shipped them from our volunteer plants has been of exceptionally fine quality. We don't know whether this may be due to strain or growing conditions, but, anyway, the plants we have for sale and for planting are all grown from seed of our own plants.

Strong, one-year seedlings, for shipment early April, 1951, six for \$2.00, postpaid.

### PEA TREE

(*Caragana arborescens*)

The pea tree is a very hardy shrub or small tree which comes from Siberia. It is drought resistant and is much used for hedge in the Dakotas and in western Canada. It is a free bloomer and the pea-like blossoms yield an abundant supply of well flavored honey in the spring.

Seed, per packet, 20c;  $\frac{1}{4}$  pound, \$1.00; pound, \$3.00; postpaid.

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## Perennial Honey Plants

### MOUNTAIN MINT

(*Pycnanthemum pilosum*)



*Norman Pellett with the first commercial planting of Mountain Mint, his 4-H project*



This one of our native plants has merits which have too long been overlooked. It blooms heavily for a long period beginning in July, and is very attractive to the bees. Its mass of bloom and very pronounced mint flavor make it desirable for both bee garden and herb garden.

Of most importance may be the commercial aspects of this plant. Tests indicate that a very much heavier yield of oil can be distilled from this plant as compared to most yields obtained from other mints now in commercial production. Experiments are now under way in the states of Missouri and Washington in an effort to determine more fully the commercial value.

Mountain Mint came to light in the American Bee Journal Test Gardens in the increase from a few plants which Frank C. Pellett dug from a hillside overlooking the Current River in Missouri. It is native to some of the hilly wooded areas of the Middlewest. It is an abundant source of nectar and has been reported as a source of surplus honey in some localities along the Mississippi River.

Try this plant in your garden; we believe you will like it. Ask for reprint, "Mountain Mint."

The seed is tiny, probably more than 100,000 seeds to the ounce.

Seed, packet, 20c; ounce, \$2.00;  $\frac{1}{4}$  pound \$5.00; postpaid.

Also plants, see inside back cover.

**PYCNANTHEMUM FLEXUOSUM**, known as Narrow-Leaved Mountain Mint, also blooms over a long period beginning in mid-summer. It is attractive to the bees and reported as a valuable source of nectar in Missouri.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

## **GARDEN SAGE** (*Salvia officinalis*)

The garden sage has been cultivated for centuries for its aromatic leaves which are used in flavoring foods. It is a long lived perennial and should be included in every garden. The flowers are attractive to bees and a high quality honey is gathered from garden sage. Blooms in June.

Seed, packet, 20c; per ounce, 75c; postpaid.

## **MEADOW SAGE** (*Salvia pratensis*)

This very hardy perennial sage provides good bee pasture for several weeks in the spring when forage is scarce. Here it blooms in May following the dandelion and fruit bloom and continuing usually until the White Clover has started, thus filling a gap when nectar is needed for the spring buildup. It grows close to the ground, except in blooming stage, when the flowering stems reach a height of about two feet with abundant purple flowers. It is a nice ornamental and attracts attention, since it blooms early when there is not yet much bloom in the flower garden. We find it long lived and drought resistant. It stands reasonable



competition and spreads slowly from self-seeding. Apparently this is a good plant for naturalizing along roadsides and borders. Weeds can be mowed over it without injury to the meadow sage. You will like this plant in your flower garden.

Ask us for the reprint, "New Sages for the Bee Pas-



*Meadow Sage is abundant in nectar at a time in the spring when there is little else for the bees*

ture."

Seed, packet, 20c; per ounce, \$1.00; ¼ pound, \$3.00; postpaid.

### SUMMER SAGE

(*Salvia superba*)

This is a strong growing sage reaching a height of about three feet and blooming intermittently all season. It blooms very freely in June and again in September, with some flowers all summer. It is usually swarming with bees. It is ornamental and good for naturalizing. Perennial.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

### SALVIA VIRGATA

This strong growing perennial blooms freely in mid-summer, following the early bloom of Summer Sage. It reaches a height of three to four feet with light blue flowers. Much visited by bees.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

### ANISE HYSSOP

(*Agastache anethiodora*)

This wonder honey plant attracts the bees more consistently than any other of the 500 under observation in the American Bee Journal trial gardens. We know no other plant which the bees will work so freely, all day and every day, and for so long a blooming period as Anise Hyssop under right conditions.

Anise Hyssop furnishes an abundance of bloom beginning early in June. It blooms heavily for over two



months and continues with some bloom until October. It is native to the middlewest and pioneer settlers reported fine crops of good quality honey from it. The plant is perennial and usually reaches a height of about four feet. It blooms the first year from seed.



*A vigorous plant of Anise Hyssop has many branches like the above*

Anise Hyssop is an old Indian herb and of special interest to herb gardeners. The abundance of bloom makes it desirable for flower gardens as well.

A correspondent writes us: "... Here in Minnesota it proves to be the best honey plant in this section. More attractive to the bees than Sweet Clover. I believe every bee-keeper should seed this plant for his future bee-pasture. . . . "

The seed starts slowly and usually requires weeding the first season. It is an attractive plant for bee and herb gardens in many places and for some it is proving worth while to make larger plantings, especially for bee pasture.

Ask us for reprint, "Anise Hyssop—Wonder Honey Plant."

The seed is small, perhaps a half million seeds to the pound.

Seed, packet, 20c; per ounce, \$1.50; ¼ pound, \$5.00; postpaid.

Also plants, see inside back cover.

## GIANT HYSSOP

(*Agastache scrophulariaefolia*)

The giant hyssop is a perennial common to open woodlands and partially shady places which flowers in August and September. It reaches a height of five or six feet and is one of the really good bee plants.

Seed, 20c per packet, postpaid.

## WILD INDIGO

(*Baptisa*)

This attractive perennial is worthy of more common cultivation. Dozens of stalks arise from a single root in a well established plant and often reach a height of three feet with large clusters of pea-like flowers.

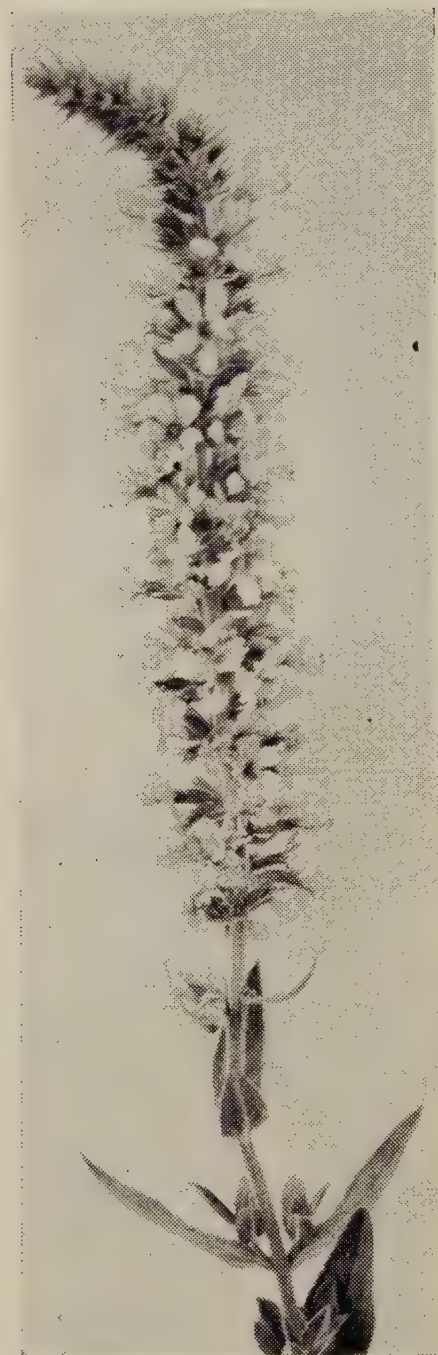


Perennial, native to the Mid-West prairies. Very attractive to the bees.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

Also plants, see inside back cover.

### PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE (*Lythrum salicaria*)



This is a promising bee plant which is an attractive ornamental and under cultivation it is adaptable to most soils. It is often found in flower gardens where it is grown for the beauty of its abundant pink flowers.

Purple Loosestrife is especially adapted to moist or boggy land and under these conditions has naturalized readily in some localities and is reported as a major source of honey where sufficiently plentiful. Some beekeepers have improved local bee pasture by sowing along streams and around ponds. The plant gradually spreads down stream. It blooms heavily, beginning in mid-summer and lasting for a long period, sometimes until frost. It is a perennial, growing from three to six feet in height.

The seed is tiny, with a very large number of seeds per ounce.

Seed, packet, 20c; ounce \$1.00;  $\frac{1}{4}$  pound, \$3.00; postpaid.

Also plants, see inside back cover.

### SEA HOLLY

(*Eryngium planum*) in the flower garden or border is a very striking perennial with its blue stems and flower heads growing to about three feet. A delightful picture with bees and other insects hovering over this handsome plant.

Seed, packet, 20c, postpaid.

### GARDEN HYSSOP (*Hyssopus officinalis*)

This is the old world herb Hyssop and should not be confused with either the Anise Hyssop or Giant Hyssop, since it is an entirely different plant. It is usually swarming with bees for weeks from June to September. Although it kills to the ground in winter, the stocky,



thick spreading growth makes it appear during summer and fall as a low growing shrub. Perennial, grows to two feet in height. The numerous blue flowers, though not showy, are quite ornamental. One of the finest honey plants and especially desirable for border plantings.

Seed, packet, 20c; per ounce, 75c; postpaid.

## WILD MARJORAM

(*Origanum vulgare*)

Wild Marjoram blooms over a long period, beginning in midsummer and is a favorite of the honey-bee. It is an attractive perennial, growing 1½ to two feet tall. It is a European plant cultivated in gardens and naturalizes readily under right conditions in this country. It is promising for use as an ornamental in such situations as roadside plantings where one that will withstand reasonable competition is needed. You will like it in your garden.



Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

Also plants, see inside back cover.

## JERUSALEM SAGE

(*Phlomis tuberosa*)

This tall growing plant which reaches a height of four to six feet is a showy member of the mint family from Asia. Like other mints, it is attractive to the bees. It is of easy culture, spreads slowly and is well suited to background planting in the garden or naturalizing in waste places for bee pasture. Blooms in midsummer.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

## ASTER

The wild asters are the last source of nectar in many localities. We offer a mixture of several of the most ornamental varieties, including New England Aster and Arrow Leaf Aster. All are worthy of a place in the garden. Perennial.



*New England Aster, probably the most ornamental of the wild asters.*

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

Also plants, see inside back cover.



## CHAPMAN HONEY PLANT (*Echinops sphaerocephalus*)

Chapman Honey plant, also known as Globe Thistle, once enjoyed a real boom among the bee-keepers. It blooms heavily in mid-summer and the bees visit the flowers in large numbers. The globe-shaped flowers are grown for ornament. The plant is biennial and reaches a height of six feet; easily grown, can be planted either spring or early fall.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.



*The Echinops have globe-shaped flowers.*

## ECHINOPS RITRO

The blue flowered Chapman Honey Plant is perennial, growing to a height of about four feet on our soil. It is not nearly so tall as the other variety but is more desirable as an ornamental. It comes into

## THE BEE GARDEN

Provides nectar for the bees and relaxation for the owner.



To live in an atmosphere of abundant flowers, humming with bees in search of nectar, brings mental harmony and peace of mind.

*Even though the world is not at peace, you can become at peace with the world in your bee garden.*



bloom somewhat later and lasts into September.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

### CATNIP OR CATMINT

(*Nepeta cataria*)

This best known member of the Catnip family blooms over a long period, beginning in mid-summer. It is very rich in nectar and attracts the bees in large numbers. It is perennial, easy to grow and one of the very best of honey plants for naturalizing in waste places. This plant was common to herb gardens of pioneer days, grows three feet tall.

Seed, packet, 15c; ounce, 75c;  $\frac{1}{4}$  pound, \$2.50; postpaid.

**NEPETA NUDA**, known as Beemint, this member of the Catmint family is a taller plant with upright growth reaching a height of four or five feet. It blooms in mid-summer and is rich in nectar. Perennial. Seed, small packet, 20c, postpaid.

**NEPETA GRANDIFLORA**, another very good honey plant, we think this one is perhaps the most showy member of the Catnip family. It grows to height of two feet with wide spreading growth and blooms intermittently from mid summer to late fall. Fairly easy to grow from seed, once well established will stand much competition. Perennial. Seed, small packet, 20c, postpaid.

Also plants, see inside back cover.

### GOLDEN HONEY PLANT

(*Actinomeris alternifolia*)

Golden Honey Plant, also known as Wingstem or Crownbeard, is one of the best native honey plants of the Mississippi valley. Where this plant is plentiful the bee-keeper need never worry about abundant stores for winter. It is a rather coarse perennial about five feet tall with irregular yellow flowers. It blooms in August and never fails to find the bees working it. It will grow in either sun or partial shade; does best in sheltered situations such as partly wooded areas or woodland borders. Once started in favorable environment, it will gradually spread around. It is often found growing in sparse timber along streams.

Seed, per packet, 20c; 2 ounces, \$1.00; postpaid.

Also plants, see inside back cover.

### SIMPSON'S HONEY PLANT

(*Scrophularia marilandica*)

Simpson's Honey Plant, also commonly known as Figwort has long been famous for its rich store of nectar for the bees. The flowers are small but abundant and rich in honey. The plant is perennial and grows from three to six feet high. It will grow in either sun or shade and is often found growing wild in wooded areas. It blooms in the fall.

Seed, per packet, 20c; ounce, \$1.00; postpaid.

Also plants, see inside back cover.



**MOTHERWORT****(Leonurus cardiaca)**

Motherwort blooms over a long period beginning in summer and sometimes continuing to late in the fall. It is an abundant source of nectar and the bees are attracted to it in large numbers. This perennial, native of Asia, has become naturalized in many American localities. It is easily raised from seed and, once established, should remain with little attention for many years. Grows two to four feet tall. One of the best of honey plants to naturalize in waste places for bee pasture.

Seed, packet, 15c; per ounce, 60c; postpaid.

**HOREHOUND****(Marrubium vulgare)**

Horehound is a well known herb which comes from Eurasia and has become naturalized over parts of the United States. It blooms from July to September and the flowers attract many bees. It is the source of much dark honey in some localities.

Seed, per packet, 15c; ounce, \$1.00; postpaid.

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## Annuals

**ORIENTAL HOLLYHOCK****(Malva silvestris)**

Because it is a nice ornamental and blooms abundantly over a long period we like this member of the easy to grow Hollyhock family. This hollyhock is reported from California as very attractive to the bees and we find it so in our garden. Usually grown as an annual, it comes into bloom quickly. From seed planted in April it began blooming in July and continued in flower until frost. Try this for a quick and worthwhile addition to your flower garden.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

**PHACELIA**

The fiddle neck phacelia (*Phacelia tenacetifolia*) is an annual of easy culture and the flowers are covered with bees from morning till night. This plant is native to California but has been widely cultivated in European gardens as a honey plant, also grown to some extent for forage. It reaches a height of about two feet, with blueish or pink flowers. A famous bee plant.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

**CALIFORNIA POPPY**

The California poppy is a familiar plant to those who have visited the West Coast in springtime. In the East it is grown as an annual. It reseeds freely and is easily grown in gardens or naturalized in sunny situations. The bees visit the flowers in large numbers for pollen. It blooms over a long period.

Seed, per packet, 15c; ounce, 60c; postpaid.



## GOLDEN CLEOME (*Cleome lutea*)

Golden Cleome or Yellow Spider Flower makes a large growing ornamental in one season growth. Though native to a dry region (the Southwest), this annual proves worthy of garden cultivation in our more humid climate. Given cultivation and plenty of room, it reaches a height of six or seven feet and blooms from July until frost with a constantly increasing number of flower clusters. A single plant with plenty of room may resemble a young tree with much yellow bloom all late summer and fall. It is ideal for background, self sows freely. Although this may not be true in all localities, we find it one of the finest of honey plants,



*Our annual Golden Cleome or Yellow Spider Flower*

very attractive to bees and other insects, continuing well into the fall when there is not much other bee forage.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

## BORAGE

Borage has long been famous as a bee plant and has been much planted in European honey plant gardens. It is an annual native to Europe and North Africa.

Although the honey is dark and not of the best quality, the bees visit the flowers so freely that it should be included in every extensive collection of honey plants. It is a hardy plant, blooming for a long period.

Seed, per packet, 15c, postpaid.



**MIGNONETTE****(Reseda odorata)**

Mignonette has long been a favorite with those who have bee gardens. The bloom is very fragrant. Some very extravagant claims have been made as to the amount of honey to be secured from this source. While there is no proof that such yields can be secured, the flowers are very attractive to the bees and it seems probable that if enough of it were available good crops might be harvested. Try it in your garden.

Seed, per packet, 15c; ounce, 60c; postpaid.

## **SPECIAL PACKET COLLECTIONS OF SEED**

Something in Bloom All Season

**I. NECTAR LEGUME FORAGE CROPS**

(For you to get acquainted with the best we know in forage crops which are good for bees.)

10 liberal packets of seed for \$1.00, postpaid.

One packet each of Birdsfoot Trefoil, Wagner Flat Pea, Sainfoin, Ladino Clover, Hairy Vetch, Strawberry Clover, New Madrid Sweet Clover, Evergreen Sweet Clover, Hubam (annual) sweet clover, common sweet clover.

**II. ATTRACTIVE UNUSUAL NECTAR PLANTS for BEE GARDEN and FLOWER GARDEN.**

6 packets unusual seed for \$1.00, postpaid.

One packet each of Mountain Mint, Anise Hyssop, Meadow Sage, Sea Holly, Oriental Hollyhock, Garden Hyssop.

**III. NECTAR PLANTS FOR UNUSED LAND.**

(Also of interest in the garden).

8 packets of seed for \$1.00, postpaid.

One packet each of Golden Honey Plant, Simpson Honey Plant, Catnip, Motherwort, Purple Loosestrife (for wet land), Phacelia, Lespedeza Bicolor, Chapman Honey Plant.

*All three collections for \$2.75, postpaid.*

**SAFFLOWER**

Safflower is a fast growing annual which reaches a height of about three feet. The large yellow flowers are of interest in the garden but it is cultivated principally as a source of drying oil in demand by the paint and varnish industry. Bees visit the flowers freely and indications are that it will prove to be a good honey plant.

Seed, per packet, 15c, postpaid.



**SESAMUM**

Sesamum is an annual of easy culture. It grows to a height of three feet in this climate and the large flowers are very attractive to the bees. It blooms in late summer. It is an important source of edible oil in the tropics and some experimental plantings are conducted in this country for study of possible commercial adaptation.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

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**BOOKS*****A Living From Bees***

By Frank C. Pellett

A cloth bound book of 335 pages, well illustrated, which, as its title suggests, outlines proved methods of making a living from bees. The fundamentals of honey producing are explained with reasons for every necessary manipulation.

Conditions under which beekeeping is practical as an exclusive business and when it is better to be followed as a sideline are discussed at length. \$2.50, postpaid.

***American Honey Plants***

By Frank C. Pellett

The fourth revised edition of this book includes more than 100 plants not mentioned in previous editions. The most complete and practical book on honey plants ever published. With 200 illustrations and 467 large pages, the honey plants of the entire United States and Canada are extensively reviewed. Beautifully printed and bound in serviceable buckram, it is a fine example of the highest type of bookmaking. About 1,200 plants which are important to the beekeeper are discussed, with distribution, time of blooming, quality and yield of honey and other useful information. \$6.00, postpaid.

***How to Attract Birds***

By Frank C. Pellett

This little book of 156 pages, fully illustrated with the author's photographs, is an account of forty years' experience with wild birds in several localities. Suggestions for attracting birds by means of providing nest boxes, storm shelters, watering and feeding stations and providing suitable surroundings are helpful in any situation. \$2.50, postpaid.

***Success With Wild Flowers***

By Frank C. Pellett

An account of the author's forty years' experience in growing wild flowers in a five acre preserve. Illustrated with numerous photographs and color plates. Cloth bound, 175 pages, \$2.50, postpaid.



## STRAWBERRY PLANTS

We will be pleased to fill your needs in April with nice, very fresh dug plants, shipped direct to you from our doubly inspected fields. We have been growing strawberry plants in quantity for twenty years and we are confident you will like our plants. The point is that we are in position to ship them to you without delay after they are dug. We have simplified to three varieties which are unsurpassed for use in the mid-west.

Shipments beginning soon as weather permits—late March and ending April 30.

SENATOR DUNLAP, June bearing—50 for \$1.25; 100 for \$2.00; 200 for \$3.75; 500 for \$7.50; postpaid; 1,000 for \$12.00, express, not prepaid.

Everbearing, either GEM or STREAMLINER—50 for \$2.00; 100 for \$3.50; 200 for \$6.50; 500 for \$14.00; postpaid

**ORDER AND PLANT EARLY.** You have looked through our catalog and this is just a suggestion—that you make your selections and send in your order so as to be ready to plant at the most favorable time. Seeds of some of our native plants need cool weather for germination and should be sown with the first breath of spring.

**FOLLOW PLANTING DIRECTIONS.** We will send planting directions with the seed you order. Read the directions carefully; we want you to have success with your seeds. We have grown some of all of these plants from seed and we find that some of them are as easy to start from seed as garden vegetables, while others germinate slowly and require the right conditions. You will find our seed packets liberal, except for a very few items which are in short supply.

## CONDITIONS OF SALE

These offerings are made, subject to stocks unsold; we may sell out of some items. This catalog cancels all lists previously issued.

Remit by check or money order. Currency remittances at your own risk.

You have probably noticed that practically all prices quoted herein are postpaid. We will either insure the parcel or guarantee safe arrival anywhere in the U.S.A. Plants we offer will be well packed for shipping. Any claims must be made within ten days of receipt of order. We try to send out only good seeds and plants and we use much care to keep our varieties pure and true to name. However, since results also depend on such factors as soils, climates, weather, knowledge and skill of the purchaser, etc., over which we have no control, we cannot in any way be responsible for the crop. It is mutually agreed that our liability in any instance is limited to the original purchase price. Pellett Gardens.



**PELLETT GARDENS**

Atlantic, Iowa

Date.....195.....

Please send the following to:

I enclose \$.....

Des. on Pg. No.	Items	Quantity Wanted	Amount	
	<i>FORAGE CROPS</i>			
3	Birdsfoot Trefoil		\$	
4	Big Trefoil			
4	Wagner Flat Pea			
5	Sainfoin			
6	Pellett Clover (root divisions) Ship roots at once or ship about .....			
7	White Dutch Clover			
7	Ladino Clover (certified)			
8	Strawberry Clover			
8	Ohio Evergreen Sweet Clover			
8	Madrid Sweet Clover			
8	Hubam Sweet Clover			
9	Sweet Clover (mixed common)			
9	Erector Sweet Clover			
9	Hairy Vetch			
	<i>TREES AND SHRUBS</i>			
9	Vitex (seed)			
10	Everflowering Locust (trees)			
11	Fall Blooming Elm (1-yr. trees)			
11	Lespedeza Bicolor (seed)			
11	Lespedeza Cyrtobotra (seed)			
11	Bittersweet (seedlings)			
12	Pea Tree (seed)			
	<i>PERENNIAL HONEY PLANTS</i>			
12	Mountain Mint (P. pilosum)			
13	Pycnanthemum Flexuosum			
13	Garden Sage			
13	Meadow Sage			
14	Summer Sage			
14	Salvia Virgata			
14	Anise Hyssop			
15	Giant Hyssop			
15	Wild Indigo			
16	Purple Loosestrife			
16	Sea Holly			
16	Garden Hyssop			
17	Wild Marjoram			
17	Jerusalem Sage			
	<i>CARRIED FORWARD</i>		\$	

(over)

Des. on Pg. No.	Items	Quantity Wanted	Amount	
	<i>CARRIED FORWARD</i>		\$	
17	Aster (mixture wild aster seed)			
18	Chapman Honey Plant			
18	Echinops Ritro			
19	Catnip or Catmint			
19	Nepeta Nuda			
19	Nepeta Grandiflora			
19	Golden Honey Plant			
19	Simpson's Honey Plant			
20	Motherwort			
20	Horehound			
	<i>ANNUALS</i>			
20	Oriental Hollyhock			
20	Phacelia			
20	California Poppy			
21	Golden Cleome			
21	Borage			
22	Mignonette			
22	Safflower			
23	Sesamum			
22	Packet Collections of Seed No. I, No. II, No. III, or all 3			
	<i>BOOKS</i>			
23	A Living From Bees			
23	American Honey Plants			
23	How to Attract Birds			
23	Success With Wild Flowers			
	<i>STRAWBERRY PLANTS</i>			
24	Senator Dunlap			
24	Gem			
24	Streamliner			
	Ship Strawberries about April .....1951			
	<i>PLANTS OF PERENNIALS</i>			
27	Mountain Mint, plants or divisions			
27	Anise Hyssop, 1-yr. seedlings			
27	Wild Indigo, strong seedlings			
27	Wild Marjoram, large divisions			
27	Purple Loosestrife, 1-yr. plants			
27	New England Aster, divisions			
27	Nepeta Grandiflora, plants			
27	Golden Honey Plant, plants or div.			
27	Simpson's Honey Plant, plants or div.			
27	Special Collection Offer of Plants Ship plants about April.....1951 (Date not later than April 20th)			
	<i>TOTAL AMOUNT</i>		\$	

*Any special instructions, write on separate sheet.*

We try to send out only good seeds and plants and we use much care to keep our varieties pure and true to name. However, since results also depend upon such factors as soils, climates, weather, knowledge and skill of the purchaser, etc., over which we have no control, we cannot in any way be responsible for the crop. It is mutually agreed that our liability in any instance is limited to the original purchase price. **PELLETT GARDENS, Atlantic, Iowa.**



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# Seeds of Honey Plants

Offered by

## PELLETT GARDENS

ATLANTIC, IOWA

1951

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*As Spring planting time draws near, we hope  
to hear from you*

If you do not have our 1951 catalogue, ask for a copy.

---



Above is pictured a honeybee in the act of visiting flowers in search of nectar, at the same time performing the pollination service so essential to our well-being. The greater the abundance and succession of honey plants—the more bees for pollination and the more honey in the hive.

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*We are here to serve you*

---

## PELLETT GARDENS

Atlantic, Iowa



**PELLETT  
GARDENS  
Atlantic, Iowa**

Ralph R. Shaw Librarian  
U.S. Dept of Agric.  
Washington 25 D.C.



Sec. 34.66 P.L. & R.



## PLANTS

To start with plants of some of the perennial honey plants is quicker than seed and in some cases easier. We offer the following plants for early spring shipment 1951, beginning as soon as we can dig them (late March) and closing April 20th.

You may place your order for plants any time this winter or early spring. State when you would like to have them shipped in early April and we will ship as near that time as we can. They are hardy plants, so as soon as the frost is out is time to plant. Please order in multiples of the smallest amount listed.

We do not ship plants outside of the United States.

**MOUNTAIN MINT** (*Pycnanthemum pilosum*), plants or nice divisions, 4 for \$1.00; dozen, \$2.50; postpaid.

**ANISE HYSSOP** (*Agastache anethiodora*), one year seedlings, 8 for \$1.00; 25 for \$2.50; 100 for \$8.00; postpaid.

**WILD INDIGO** (*Baptisa*), strong seedlings, 3 for \$1.00, postpaid.

**WILD MARJORAM** (*Organum vulgare*), large divisions, 3 for \$1.00; dozen \$3.00; postpaid.

**PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE** (*Lythrum salicaria*), one-year plants, 4 for \$1.00; dozen, \$2.50; postpaid.

**NEW ENGLAND ASTER**—This is the most showy of the wild asters. Divisions, 4 for \$1.00; per dozen, \$2.50; postpaid.

**NEPETA GRANDIFLORA** — Plants, 4 for \$1.00; dozen, \$2.50, postpaid.

**GOLDEN HONEY PLANT** (*Actinomeris alternifolia*), plants or good divisions, 8 for \$1.00; 25 for \$2.50; postpaid.

**SIMPSON'S HONEY PLANT** (*Scrophularia marilandica*), one-year plants or divisions, 5 for \$1.00; 10 for \$1.75; postpaid.

### *Special Collection Offer of Plants*

8 one-year seedlings Anise Hyssop, 3 large divisions Wild Marjoram, 4 one-year plants Purple Loosestrife, 4 divisions New England Aster, 8 plants or divisions Golden Honey Plant, 5 plants or divisions Simpson's Honey Plant:

***\$6.00 Value for \$5.00, Postpaid***

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